



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin regards youth as our most vital and valuable asset and has a tradition of promoting the health, well-being, and education of its young people to allow them to realize their fullest human potential; and

WHEREAS, helping teens avoid early and unintended pregnancies will positively affect their social, physical, emotional and financial futures; and

WHEREAS, the United States still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world even after a decade of reduced teen pregnancy rates with 900,000 teen pregnancies each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the well-being of children, youth and families, has a goal to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy by one-third between 1996 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, 6534 Wisconsin women under the age of 20 became pregnant in 2002 with some of the nation's highest numbers in Milwaukee and among the Hispanic and the African American communities; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin recognizes the hardships often placed on adolescent parents, their families and their children as a result of teen pregnancy including poverty, repeat pregnancies, education disruptions or withdrawal, and risks to the health of babies; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is pleased with the progress made in reducing the teen birth rate but understands that raising awareness and understanding on this issue through programs like *Brighter Futures The Wisconsin Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy* is the foundation of our strategy to reduce teen pregnancy in Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim the

Month of May 2004

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

and May 5, 2004

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION DAY

in the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty sixth day of April in the year two thousand four.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor


DOUGLAS A. FOLLIS
Secretary of State